

Application No.: 10/804,635
Reply to Final Office Action of November 2, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sipe (522). The Examiner asserts that the disclosure of Sipe provides a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claims. The Examiner asserts that Figures 1, 3, 7 and 9 show a plurality of terminals 127, compliant sections 128, a main board 910, a plurality of sub-boards 130 equipped with lands 332, 326, contact sections 310, a mating connector 200 and a housing 110, 120, 140.

Claims 1-3 are hereby cancelled rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sipe in view of McGrath et al. The Examiner correctly asserts that Sipe does not show a part of the land which is close to the edge and is narrower than the remainder of the land. Claims 4-6 have been rewritten in independent form with the addition of a recitation that the distance between the terminal-side edge of the sub-board insulator and the lands is less than or equal to 0.3 millimeters. Neither McGrath nor Sipe teach nor suggest such an arrangement. Although McGrath shows contact pads 44 being separated from the insertion edge 42 by a beveled area 43, it does not suggest such a close arrangement of the lands to the edge. Although these claims, without amendment, are believed to be patentably distinct from the references because they do not suggest any motivation to combine the claimed elements, Applicants assert that the amendment, which clarifies the position of the elements relative to each other is presented to further prosecution of the application. The amendment does not introduce any new matter as it is fully supported by the application specification and drawings. Entry of the amendment and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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For all of the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully contend that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner would like to contact the Applicants in order to advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



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